



Five Arubans are awarded their MBA Degree in E-Business

It was a simple ceremony held in the Diamond room of the Radisson Hotel, but a great moment for five Aruban individuals, shared by their families and colleagues. On Wednesday afternoon, Hendrik Schilder, Ival Vrolijk, Julie Wever, Evan Giel and Sergio De Cuba received their Masters degrees in E-Business from Pro Education, a subsidiary of the University of Higher Education, Amsterdam.

Awarding the degrees was professor and Chairman of the Thesis Committee Drs. Ben Bult, joined by fellow professors Drs. Han. A.O. Verstraeten, Product Manager and Arthur de Vries, Instructor and Consultant for Knowledge Management. The three gentlemen had flown in from Holland for the week to conduct the final thesis presentations by the five students and to award them their diplomas. The Minister of Education of Aruba the Honorable Fredis Croes also attended the ceremony, and contributed a few words of what an accomplishment this is for the students and a source of pride for Aruba. "It was a lot of hard work" reports proud father Luis Geil, recounting how he watched his son Evan studying long hours until late in the night.

The Masters course was conducted by nine high level business professionals from Holland that also teach, who commuted to Aruba over the five year period to conduct their lectures. It began with twelve students, of which five received their diplomas on Wednesday, two more are about to finish their studies in Holland, and the rest dropped out of the course. "It was a very tough course by any standards," declares instructor Verstraeten, "it is quite an accomplishment for these five that they completed it. They did much better than I had ever expected." Drs. Verstraeten had given lectures to the students three years ago, and finds that in the time since his last visit he has noticed "Enormous growth by the students, an increase in communication skills and they have become very smart on business issues." He expressed a great satisfaction on his part and the other instructors "I am proud to have been a part of this growth process, and I must commend the students on how well they defended their thesis."

The students come from the business community of Aruba, a number of them employed by Setar, Aruba's telephone company. One student, employed in the Algemene Rekenkamer or Court of Audit, declared that what he has learned has practical use he will apply to the organization of information and that it would definitely help to increase the efficiency of his work.

There followed a small reception in the ballroom foyer of the Radisson Resort, and a chance for the students to relax and bask in the glow of their success.